[The Rajpramukh, His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, arrived in State at the Town Hall precisely at Three of the Clock and was received at the steps by the Speaker. He was then conducted in Procession to the Dais, the Speaker at the head of the Procession, all Members standing.]

ADDRESS BY THE RAJPRAMUKH, HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

THE Constitution of India requires that the head of the State should address the Legislature at the commencement of every session and inform them the cause of its summons. Accordingly, I deem it a great privilege to address this, the First Session of the Legislature, under the New Constitution. I desire to extend to you a warm welcome on this historic occasion and to wish you success in your labours.

2. The Constitution, creating India a Sovereign Democratic Republic, was inaugurated on January 26th, 1950, as you are all aware. Never before in the history of India was the country so consolidated and united as we find it at present. The Map of India has been re-drawn, and 500 and odd Indian States have been re-organised and fused into one political entity with the rest of India. I desire to pay my warm tribute to the great leaders and the people of India who have made this historic and happy development possible. It is a matter for supreme gratification that we in Mysore have contributed our humble, but, which I trust is, a significant quota, towards such a consummation. I have every hope and confidence that this new set up will be conducive for the peace and progress of India as a whole, and of every unit thereof. Mysore is happy and proud that she, as an integral part of India, has been enabled to share in full measure the rights and responsibilities arising from such a position.

3. The implications and consequences for Mysore, because of this constitutional advancement, are many and varied. I do not propose to

deal with them all on the present occasion. I will be content to confine myself to just a few of the more outstanding aspects. As days pass by, all the implications will be fully understood and realised in the process of working the Constitution.

4. This Session has been convened mainly for dealing with the Budget Estimates for the next year. Our official year under the old Constitution used to begin from the 1st of July. As a result of the integration, a change in the same has been found inevitable, and so our official year hereafter will commence from the 1st of April as in other parts of India. One of the major changes following the inauguration of the New Constitution pertains to the sphere of finance. Mysore State was discharging both federal and provincial functions under the old set up. The New Constitution has separated the two spheres, and, from the 1st of April this year, the federal subjects will be transferred to the Union Government leaving only the provincial subjects to the State. The financial consequences of such a change are clear. Federal sources of revenue like income-tax, excise duties, railways, telephones and such like items will accrue to the Union hereafter. Equally so, expenditure relating to federal departments will be borne by the Union, for example, military expenditure and expenditure on the departments connected with the federal items of revenue. The various aspects relating to such a fiscal integration have been the subject-matter of prolonged discussions between the Government of India and ourselves. The Financial Agreement that has been ultimately concluded will come into effect from the 1st of April. My Government will place before you the details of this arrangement which, they feel, is on the whole satisfactory, and ensures a sound position for our finances without any sudden or unfavourable dislocation. They hope and trust that, consistent with the over-all requirements of India, Mysore will have no cause to regret the change-over.

5. My Government have kept in view the vital aspect of sound budgetting, namely, to keep the normal expenditure within the limits of normal revenue. They have also given their most earnest thought to the ways and means position to finance

development programmes, which involve appreciable capital outlay. I desire to refer in particular to the incomplete Hydro-electric Power Installation, and schemes for making available the benefit of electricity to the rural areas, major Irrigation Projects like Lakkavalli, Tunga and Nugu, and the re-organisation and expansion of the Iron and Steel Works and certain other industries.

The supreme need for economy, without imperilling efficiency or impairing necessary progress and development, has been fully realised, and all possible retrenchment has been and will continue to be effected in the light of the report of the Economy Officer appointed by the Government to report on the matter. I am sure you will consider the Budget proposals that will be placed before you, with the same sagacity that has been the traditional virtue of the Legislature in our State in the past.

6. The Budget Estimates have naturally to be designed with a view to serve the several requirements of the people of the State, and the needs of the Departments entrusted with the responsibilities for fulfilling such requirements. Owing to the limitation of time it will not be possible for me to refer to all of them. I shall therefore take up only the more important ones.

7. It has been often declared, and rightly so, that the food problem should demand our foremost attention. The food situation, grave as it is in the whole of India, is particularly so in our State. It has to be remembered that unfortunately, Mysore has been deficit in the matter of foodgrains since a long time past. This problem did not force itself on our attention owing to the natural and easy flow of imports into the State from not only other parts of India, but also from countries like Burma, till the outbreak of War, and till the emergence of controlled supply and distribution on an All-India basis. When, in addition, it is borne in mind that the population of Mysore has been steadily on the increase and has nearly doubled itself during the last about half a century, the difficulty and gravity of the problem becomes apparent. Since the last about five years, the position has been causing us great anxiety, and steady and constant

efforts are being made to make the State self-sufficient in this behalf as early as possible. My Government are of opinion, that while some progress has undoubtedly been made, it cannot be denied that, owing to causes beyond our control, we have not been able to realise our expectations fully. The Government of India have now decided to make the country self-sufficient in food by the end of 1951; and we, in Mysore, have to concentrate our attention on, and make every effort towards, rendering the State self-sufficient within the shortest time possible. A three-year programme in relation to this has been drawn up in close consultation with the Government of India, towards which the Government of India have kindly agreed to provide a suitable grant. The next two years will witness, therefore, dynamic efforts to implement the scheme successfully. I would make an earnest appeal for wholehearted co-operation between the Government and the people to make the programme a success. Otherwise, not only would we fail to provide the necessary food for the people, but also would we be not in a position to put an end to the heavy subsidy on the supply of foodgrains, which has been a great drain on the revenues of the State. I am sure you will consider carefully the detailed proposals of My Government in this behalf.

Scientific research in connection with food is proceeding apace, and we are grateful to the Government of India for locating the All-India Food Technological Research Institute in Mysore. The proposal to add the Fruit Technology Section also to the Institute is under active consideration. We on our part have collaborated with the Government of India by placing at their disposal the Cheluvamba Mansions for the housing of the Institute and its laboratories.

8. Closely allied to the progress of agriculture is the problem of land tenure. Fortunately for us, in Mysore, there are no large zamindaries, or absentee landlordism on a scale sufficient to constitute an economic and social problem. Peasant proprietors owning small holdings constitute an overwhelming majority. Even so, it was found necessary to examine the several aspects relating to the same, for example, inam tenure, and My

Government are expecting to receive very early, the report of the Committee set up to enquire into the various aspects of the subject. Soon after the receipt of their report, My Government will take necessary steps to rationalise our Land Revenue system after carefully considering the recommendations made by the Committee.

9. A wise handling of the several aspects of forestry is also necessary to improve our agriculture and industries. Steady afforestation on a planned basis is vital, and My Government are devoting their close attention to it. The holding of the International Forestry Conference in our State last year has been of immense value to us.

10. Several schemes relating to the improvement of live-stock have been sanctioned and are in the process of being implemented, and provision has been made to improve upon the present position.

11. Mysore has been known for its steady and progressive industrial policy. Several industries have been established and are run by the Government themselves. Several others have been started by private enterprise, with the Government either participating in them, or giving the private agencies all possible concessions. It has been realised, however, that in some of these industries, what we produce is not enough even for our own internal requirements. It has also been found very necessary to make some of these plants self-contained economic units. Hence My Government have launched on schemes of quantitative expansion of some of the existing industries, for example, Iron and Steel and Cement.

The Government have not been unmindful of starting suitable new industries as well. Preliminaries have been completed for the starting of a Chemical and Fertilizer Factory near Bhadravati. A report has just been received from the Westinghouse Company in connection with the development of the manufacture of electrical goods, and the expansion of the Porcelain Factory, and the Government are actively considering the report. My Government, as you are aware, have a one-third share in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory and they have now decided to participate in the Indian Telephone Company, the Raw Film Manufacturing Company, and the Sugar Company to be started in

Shimoga, by subscribing about 10 per cent of the capital of the above Companies. I desire to express my gratification at the decision of the Government of India to establish in our State the Machine Tool Industry, which involves a capital outlay of about 18 crores of rupees.

Cottage industries also have claimed the attention of the Government. A comprehensive scheme on a planned basis, thanks to the wise guidance of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, has been sanctioned, and is being put into effect in two districts to begin with. It is hoped, as a result of constant endeavours, production of essential articles will increase steadily, and will meet fully the requirements of the people.

12. A contented labour force is essential for increased production both on the field and in the factory. Several pieces of legislation have already been introduced to improve the conditions of labour, and welfare schemes have been inaugurated. Special attention is being paid to the housing of labour. My Government deferred further legislation in view of the desire of the Government of India communicated to us, that uniform legislation was desirable, and that the Government of India would themselves undertake such legislation. The holding of the meetings of the Governing Body of the International Labour Conference in our State has helped us to understand and appreciate the several aspects of the labour problem, and has been of great help to further the activities of the Labour Department which has been established in the State recently. It is also gratifying to learn that the International Labour Organisation has chosen Bangalore for locating their Headquarters of the Field Office for the technical training of man power in Asian Countries.

13. My Government are spending a large part of their revenue for education in the State. During the last two years, there has been a striking progress in the matter of starting of more and more colleges, high schools, and middle and primary schools. Realising that there was great need for re-organising the system of education in all spheres, keeping in mind the social set-up and the economic requirements of the country, the services of Dr. C. R. Reddy, an eminent educationist,

were secured, and his valuable report is now under the consideration of the Government. It is obvious that during the next two or three years, we have to concentrate more on qualitative reform rather than on merely quantitative expansion. My Government have also decided to start more occupational institutes, and to give prominence to the vocational aspect of education. Efforts are being made in the field of adult education as well, and it may be said that the deliberations of the Adult Education Seminar under the auspices of the U.N.O., held in Mysore, will serve as valuable guidance.

14. Mysore has a creditable record in the matter of providing facilities relating to medicine and public health in the State. The number of medical institutions in the State need not fear comparison with establishments elsewhere in our country. The starting of more and more health centres has been welcomed by the people, and it is a matter for sincere pleasure, that work at these centres has resulted in the control of epidemics, and particularly in checking the dire disease of malaria to an appreciable extent. The U.N.O. has been good enough to establish a demonstration centre in the Sagar area, and it is doing excellent work. The Head Office of the Asiatic Branch of the U.N.O. Health Organisation has also been established at Bangalore. The policy of My Government is to increase rural medical aid to the maximum extent possible.

15. The development of rural areas in the State has always commanded the earnest attention of the Government. Several schemes launched in this connection have had varying degrees of success. Having realised that the release of local initiative and enthusiasm was the *sine-qua-non* for a successful rural development programme, My Government inaugurated last year a comprehensive scheme, and it is being worked fairly satisfactorily. Having found, however, a certain amount of duplication of agencies working in this sphere, a Committee was appointed to consider how the existing Village Panchayets, District Boards and the Rural Development Boards could be integrated, and their activities co-ordinated, with a view to secure the best possible results.

The Committee's report is expected very soon. My Government's policy is to provide for maximum autonomy in the field of Local Self-Government with sufficient finances. Another Committee has been constituted to enquire into the working of the municipalities in the State and to recommend necessary reforms. Action will be taken by My Government as soon as the report of that Committee is made available.

We will do well to note that Mahatma Gandhi was very particular about the decentralisation of administration, and he was prepared to go the farthest length in this direction. I trust that the final proposals that will be placed before you, after due consideration of the reports of the Committees referred to above, will meet with general satisfaction, and will ensure a rapid progress socially, economically and culturally, of the backbone of the country, namely, the masses inhabiting the rural and the semi-rural areas. My Government are pledged to do their utmost in this vital sphere.

The merging of the local bodies of the erstwhile City of Bangalore and the Civil Station into one unit, and the inauguration of the Bangalore Corporation, has been a landmark in the history of Bangalore, and elections to the Corporation will be held in May this year, on the basis of Adult franchise.

16. I must needs refer to the scheme of multi-purpose co-operative societies which was inaugurated in the State last year. About 800 and odd such societies are already functioning in the rural parts of the State, there being one such society for every group of about 10 or 15 villages. I learn that people have been enthusiastic to subscribe to the share capital and to participate in the activities of the societies. My Government are of opinion that it is a hopeful augury, and, if sufficient care is taken to ensure the even and proper working of these institutions in future, it will be a source of great good to the people in the villages. My Government have recently sanctioned the starting of co-operative farming in some selected centres, and I hope it will prove a success.

17. Next to food and cloth, proper housing is a paramount necessity. Accelerated efforts have been made to provide housing facilities in the urban areas, particularly in the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore. The Improvement Trust Boards in these two Cities have several schemes of extension which are in various stages of progress. I have already referred to the labour housing schemes. I hope that private agencies, including co-operative societies and industrial concerns, will give more and more attention to provide housing amenities. My Government intend taking up the problem of rural housing also. They are already providing substantial grants every year to the Depressed Classes to build their own houses, and this has helped the community to a considerable extent.

18. Very close and earnest attention to the amelioration of the conditions of Harijans in every sphere has been a prominent feature in the administration of Mysore. The same policy is being continued, and every effort is being made by My Government to increase their welfare by adopting suitable programmes, consistent with the availability of finance. Several pieces of legislation have already been enacted, for example, the Temple Entry Authorisation Act and the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act. They are being given special preference in the matter of grant of lands and the provision of other amenities for establishing themselves in agriculture. The Government of India have recently sanctioned an enquiry into the conditions of agricultural labour, which comprises mostly of Harijans, and one unit is functioning in our State also.

19. As you are aware, Prohibition has been the accepted policy of My Government, and during the last two years a good part of the State has gone dry. The success of the experiment is being watched, and the prevalence of illicit distillation in certain parts of the dry areas has, however, caused no little concern to My Government. While being quite enthusiastic in trying to make the whole State dry, My Government feel that it is none-the-less necessary to be prudent and cautious in regard to further extension of Prohibition in the State, if only to ensure the success of the reform

on an abiding basis. It may be stated that this policy is favoured by the Centre.

20. One of the most notable features of the Mysore administration has been its pioneering activity in the sphere of Hydro-electric power. Continued progress is being maintained, and the completion of the Mahatma Gandhi Hydro-Electric Works and the Shimsha Project is expected during the next year.

Negotiations with the Government of Madras have been completed in regard to the Mekedatu Project. The Honnemaradu Project is under survey. Care is being taken for the early utilisation of the power as it is generated from time to time. Since more and more supply of power to rural areas will be of great help to agriculture and to the starting of cottage industries, My Government have actively pursued a programme of supply of power not only to all taluk headquarters, but also to as many rural areas as possible.

21. A beginning has been made in the direction of the nationalisation of road transport. State ownership of road transport is proposed to be accomplished in convenient stages. A good beginning has been made without unduly dislocating private enterprise. The problem before the Government now is, how to co-ordinate the work of the transport agencies owned by the Government and private citizens respectively. Several aspects of this problem are engaging the earnest attention of the Government.

22. I would like to make a brief reference, in passing, to the satisfactory working of the Sardar Patel Flying School at Jakkur inaugurated last year by our Prime Minister, the Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The Government of India have kindly sanctioned a subsidy for the School, and the institution is more or less self-supporting.

23. Every effort is being made, and will be continued to be made, for the maintenance of law and order in the State. While all legitimate freedom will be respected and protected, My Government will not hesitate to deal firmly with any movement or attempt, which, under the cloak

of freedom, is intended or calculated to undermine the lawfully established authority, by means other than constitutional.

24. It is a matter for anxiety that in the wake of the establishment of controls, corruption and black-marketting have followed. My Government are very earnest in trying to put down the evils to the maximum extent possible. But it is obvious that, without unstinted co-operation from the public, success will be inadequate.

The country knows very well the financial crash associated with Sriman Gopala Rao, and the constitution by the Government of a Committee, to probe into the whole affair. The Committee have carried their labours to a successful conclusion inspite of great odds and formidable difficulties. Their report is awaited, and My Government will consider it and decide on such further action as may be called for.

25. Several other matters relating to the administration, to which I have not been able to refer now, will come up before you in due course.

26. This session will not be called upon to deal with much legislative business. The Bills that will be introduced will be mostly of a minor character. Major pieces of legislation pertaining to the University, Local Self-Government, Land Revenue and Agriculture are reserved for being introduced at the next session, which is proposed to be held as early as possible. One set of Bills, however, that will come up before you in this session, relates to the preparation of compost in the villages, towns and cities. My Government attach much importance to this legislation, which has a very effective and intimate bearing on the production of more food in the country. It is probable that a Bill for maintenance of law and order may be introduced during this session, if it is ready in time.

27. My Government are conscious that a good deal remains to be done for the welfare of the people of the State in several directions. They are also aware of the need for wise planning. The Government of India have recently constituted a National Planning Commission, which it is

declared, will be a live body, intent on concrete results, instead of being content with only theoretical conclusions. We, in Mysore, have had the Economic Conference functioning since some years, whose main function was to plan various activities of the State. It has now become necessary to re-organise this agency to be in harmony with the National Planning Commission, and in such a way as to co-ordinate it with that Commission. My Government are keen on taking an early decision on this matter. The collection of reliable statistics and work connected with census are also well in hand.

28. My Government are taking active steps for the preparation and printing of electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise in connection with the general election under the New Constitution.

29. The New Constitution no doubt confers on the people several valuable rights. It is well to remember, at the same time, that there are corresponding obligations to be discharged. We have passed through many difficult situations during the last two years and odd, and, at a time when one hoped to concentrate more vigorously on several economic programmes with a view to raise the standard of living of the people in every direction, some distressing signs are visible on the horizon. I am referring in particular to the situation in the eastern part of India. I earnestly trust that wisdom, and a spirit of humanism and tolerance, will prevail in time, and unity and peace secured, without sacrifice of our interests. It would be good for us and for the world to follow the high principles of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, who secured us our freedom, and to see that they are enforced in the daily conduct of men and nations. Let truth and love be our inspiring forces. The motto for India is "SATHYAMEVA JAYATHE". Let it be given to us to keep it constantly before our mind's eye, and to give adequate support to the great precept.

30. It is my earnest prayer that we should so work our Constitution, as to succeed in securing to all citizens, what in the preamble has been so inspiringly stated, namely,

"JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the Nation."

[Address over, the National Anthem as well as the Mysore Anthem played and His Highness the Maharaja left the Hall in procession, led by the Speaker, at Forty-Five Minutes past Three of the Clock.

The Speaker returned and took the Chair.]

Report of the Address to the Assembly by the Speaker.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೆ, ಈಗ ತಾನೆ ಶ್ರೀಮ೯ ಮಹಾರಾಜರವರು ಅಪ್ಪಣೆಕೊಡಿಸಿದ ಭಾಷಣದ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮಗಳ ಮುಂದೆ ಮಂಡಿಸಲು ಸಂತೋಷಪಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಈ ಸಭೆಯು ನಾಳೆ ದಿವಸ 12 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಶಾಸನ ಸಭೆಯ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಈ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

The Assembly adjourned at Fifty Minutes past Three of the Clock to meet again at Twelve Noon in the Legislative Assembly Hall, on Thursday, 16th March 1950.

WD 1429—GBP—400—17-3-50